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#### TYPES OF ADVISORIES

##### Bulletin

Describes current developments or general trends regarding threats of terrorism.

##### Elevated Alert

Warns of a credible terrorism threat against the United States.

##### Imminent Alert

Warns of a credible, specific and impending terrorism threat against the United States.

**Office of Protective  
Services**

**July 2019 DHS Bulletin**

## **NASA CI/CT MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE – September 2019**

*This monthly newsletter is published to inform NASA personnel of significant issues related to counterintelligence, counterterrorism, and counterintelligence cyber matters. To learn more about CI/CT awareness, or to schedule a CI/CT presentation, please contact the CI point of contact located on the last page.*

### **Significant Counterterrorism (CT) Issues:**

#### **AL-QAEDA IS AS STRONG AS EVER AFTER REBUILDING ITSELF, U.S. SAYS**



Al-Qaeda and its affiliates remain as much of a threat to the U.S. as “it has ever been” after the terrorist group rebuilt itself while the U.S. and other nations focused on destroying Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, a State Department official said.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-08-01/al-qaeda-is-as-strong-as-ever-after-rebuilding-itself-u-s-says>

#### **ISIS IS REGAINING STRENGTH IN IRAQ AND SYRIA**

Five months after American-backed forces ousted the Islamic State from its last shard of territory in Syria, the terrorist group is gathering new strength, conducting guerrilla attacks across Iraq and Syria, retooling its financial networks and targeting new recruits at an allied-run tent camp.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/19/us/politics/isis-iraq-syria.html>



#### **FBI STRUGGLES TO CONFRONT RIGHT-WING TERRORISM**



FBI Director Wray assured Congress recently that his agents were aggressively combating domestic terror threats from a broad array of extremist groups. However, two recent mass shootings appear to have undercut Wray's assertions.

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2019-08-10/fbi-struggles-to-confront-domestic-terrorism-by-right-wing-groups>

### **Significant Counterintelligence Issues:**

#### **CHINA'S SPIES ARE ON THE OFFENSIVE**

Espionage and counterespionage have been essential tools of statecraft for centuries, of course, and U.S. and Chinese intelligence agencies have been battling one another for decades. Nevertheless, what these recent cases suggest is that the intelligence war is escalating—that China has increased both the scope and the sophistication of its efforts to steal U.S. secrets.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2019/08/inside-us-china-espionage-war/595747/>





## **'ACADEMIC ESPIONAGE': CHINA SUSPECTED OF FLOODING U.S. WITH STUDENTS TO ACCESS SENSITIVE PROGRAMS**



Academic leaders, lawmakers, and military and intelligence officials say Washington needs to take a harder look at the number of Chinese who come to the U.S. to study engineering, aeronautics, astronautics, quantum mechanics and other fields that have direct connections to national security.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/aug/22/china-academic-espionage-deploys-students-us-access/>

## **HAS CHINA INFILTRATED AMERICA'S UNIVERSITIES?**

The FBI is warning American universities about espionage by Chinese researchers and academics. The FBI now advises research universities to track and observe Chinese students and faculty for signs of intellectual property theft. In the last year, the federal government has voided or re-evaluated the visas of 30 Chinese academics for this crime.

<https://spectator.us/china-infiltrated-americas-universities/>



### **Analyst Notes – Items to Watch:**

It appears that the recent reports of the demise of ISIS were far too optimistic. In addition, despite the reported death of Hamza Bin Laden (UBL's son and heir apparent of Al-Qaeda (AQ) leadership), AQ tactics of laying low and supporting local insurgencies have allowed them to flourish underground. ISIS continues to exist as a guerrilla force in a number of ungoverned areas in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. Recent open source reporting has now begun to show the size and scope of Chinese espionage efforts aimed at acquiring US technology and research. Foreign collection operations, led by China, are widespread as their efforts at illegal technology acquisition is far larger and more sophisticated than first believed. The NASA CI/CT division continues to monitor these threats and any others that have the potential to harm NASA or its equities.

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